

SUNSHINE COLUMN

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL SUNSHINE SOCIETY.

Mrs. J. M. RANSIER, State President, Hendersonville, N. C.

A SUNSHINE DAY.

Practical Suggestions for Putting Sunshine Philosophy Into Effect.

Merry Christmas to all! And another, Merry Christmas (for good measure) to the Sunshine members of our C. C. C.—"Cheerful Chatter Corner."

But right here let me tell you a secret: you can't be very merry yourself unless you have done what you could to make others happy too.

Perhaps you have been spending days planning and preparing delightful surprises for all your friends and loved ones, and you are thinking how delightful the children will be when they discover those fat little stockings Christmas morning. But surely you are not going to stop there.

Doesn't the Good Book say that it isn't any credit to us if we only love those who love us? That the poor, benighted, blinded heathen do that much?

"Let all the good thou dost to man
A gift be; not a debt;
And he will more remember thee
The more thou dost forget."

Doing and giving to those you love is most surely only a debt, and you get your pay in their love and your love for them. But you want to try—

"The joy of generous giving
Like the sun."

Christmas is a grand opportunity to broaden and expand ourselves. Can't we be as liberal as the rest of God's creatures?

"When the sunbeams cheer thy way,
Do they ask thee to repay?
When the bright flowers paint the
sward,
Do they do it for reward?
When the bird sings clear and long,
Does he want thanks for his song?"

We may not have much to give, but that need not make us narrow in our giving. The widow's mite was a broad, generous gift, because it was all she had.

Let's be generous; let it be said of us:

"She hath done what she could."
"She and 'he' too."

"Do a kindness, do it well;
Angels will the story tell."

"Do a kindness though 'tis small;
Angel voices sing it all!"

Now, dear Sunshiners, do look around you and see whether there is one who needs your care and love and sympathy. If so, do not give it to them sparingly. Perhaps you have an invalid or the aged in your own home. If so, give them every little attention possible, making them as comfortable and as happy as it is in your power to do. There are so many ways to do this that cost so little.

God grant that each one of us may

do something to save those who are perishing for the lack of love and sympathy.

DON'T WAIT.

"If you've anything good to say of a man

Don't wait till he's laid to rest,
For the eulogy spoken, when hearts are broken,
Is an empty thing at best.

"If you've any alms to give to the poor,
Don't wait till you hear the cry
Of wan distress in this wilderness
Lest the one forsook may die."

In many homes there are quantities of really good things stored up or lying around; things that never would be missed were they given away. Fill a box. If you don't know just where to send it, write to me, I can tell you.

Then there are others of our C. C. C. who may feel unable to fill even a small box though they would dearly love to help make Christmas sunshine outside the circle of their personal friends.

Now Sunshine headquarters picks up the isolated children, old folks, and invalids not reached by any other society. But it takes postage to send the very smallest kind of a remembrance.

Can't you send a stamp and thus share in the passing on of their Christmas happiness? We are trying to, as far as possible, make the otherwise lonely and sad hearts glad, for Sunshine is not a cold charity—a simple supplying of wants—but its gifts carry love.

"Only a poor little stamp:
It was all I had to give;
But as pennies make the dollars,
It may help the cause to live."

"A few little bits of ribbon,
And some toys that were now new,
But they made the sick child happy,
Which has made me happy too."

Cannot the children in your home know the happiness of helping Sunshine brighten the lives of the little crippled children and the poor little souls with no stocking for Santa Claus to fill?

Only a stamp!
For empty stockings.
From the children who know Santa;
For the children who don't.
Please don't forget.
Send to-day.

Our Sunshine Society has for sale, for the benefit of the stamp

fund, some little barometers. They are a little girl on a card, whose dress changes its color just before a change of weather. Blue for dry weather, pink for rain and storm, and violet for a change of weather. They are made by a shut-in and sell for fifteen cents. They are lovely for Christmas or New Year's remembrances and can be sent in a letter.

Don't you want one?
Mrs. M. C. H. writes:

"My Dear Mrs. Ransier:—Enclosed please find one dollar; please mail me some of the little 'Barometer Girls.' I want to use them for Christmas and New Year's greeting, and at the same time do just this little to help the dear shut-in. God bless her and won't you tell her I said so? . . . I have no money to do large things, but if there is any little thing I can do any time, let me know and I shall try to do it.

Blessings on you and your Sunshine work. Believe me,

"Sincerely yours,
"MRS. M. C. H."

Please C. C. C.'s, send me the address of any shut-ins you know of. If they don't get a Christmas card, you will know there wasn't enough to go round, or the stamps gave out.

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